

Bond Classification

APA trademarked panels are classified as either Exterior or Exposure 1. The bond classification relates to moisture resistance of the adhesive bond in accordance with the intended end-use conditions and thus, to structural integrity. It does not relate to resistance of the panel to physical forces such as erosion, ultraviolet light or to biological factors such as mold, fungal decay, insects, etc. Since aesthetic (nonstructural) attributes of panels may be compromised to some degree by exposure to weather^(a), APA installation recommendations are designed to provide optimum overall performance.

Exterior panels are suitable for applications subject to long-term exposure to the weather or to moisture.

Exposure 1 panels may be used for applications where construction delays may be expected prior to providing protection. Exposure 1 panels are made with the same exterior adhesives used in Exterior panels. Because other compositional factors may affect bond performance, however, only Exterior panels should be used for long-term exposure to the weather.^(b)

Note: Plywood APA Rated Sheathing Exposure 1, commonly called “CDX” in the trade, is sometimes mistaken as an Exterior panel and erroneously used in applications for which it does not possess the required resistance to weather. “CDX” should only be used for applications as outlined under Exposure 1 above. For sheathing grade panels that will be exposed long-term to the weather, specify APA Rated Sheathing Exterior (C-C Exterior plywood under PS 1).

FOOTNOTES:

- (a) Panel surfaces may become uneven and irregular under prolonged moisture exposure. Panels should be allowed to dry, and panel joints and surfaces may need to be sanded before applying some finish materials.
- (b) Exposure 1 panels may also be used when exposure to the outdoors is on the underside only, such as at roof overhangs (open soffit). Appearance characteristics of the panel grade should be considered.

We have field representatives in many major U.S. cities and in Canada who can help answer questions involving APA trademarked products. For additional assistance in specifying engineered wood products, contact us:

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